

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Conservation Strategy (CS) Workgroup Meeting

April 16, 2007, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

Draft Meeting Notes

Co-chairs: Walt Wadlow and Anthony Saracino

Call-in attendees: Craig Hanson (Jones and Stokes for Zone 7), Karen Scarborough

Action Items and Key Recommendations

- Edits to short-listing criteria will be made by SAIC in time for distribution during interim science meeting 4/19 and review by Steering Committee 4/20

Conservation Strategy Alternative Short-listing criteria: Presentation and Discussion (Paul Cylinder, Pete Rawlings, SAIC)

Short-listing criteria will be applied to CS alternatives and elements. Analysis will be qualitative, based on professional scientific judgement. The outcome of analysis will be narrative, and a shorter summary will be included.

Suggested edits and key comments on short-listing criteria:

- Remove criteria copied from Planning Agreement goals and CALFED goals (Criteria #1-2, and #4); insert brief wording in introduction statement reading: "...the degree to which each CSA does not conflict with policies and goals of fisheries agencies."
- Group criteria according to changes in the system: ecological/species, infrastructure, and other.
- Add new feasibility criterion (as #2) reading: "Feasibility, including ability to fund, legally implement, and implement from engineering and practicability standpoint."
- Criterion #5:
 - change "species infrastructure" to "species-related objectives"
 - add "post-permit" after "anticipated future"
 - add at end of sentence "seismicity, subsidence" (after Mount et al. 2006) and "...and other changes to the system."
- Criterion #7: reword to clarify that BDCP aims not to impact negatively other native species that are not currently covered. The current wording could be interpreted to read that BDCP aims to reduce the distribution and abundance of native species not included as Covered Species.
- Criterion #9: change "future changing needs of the covered fish species" to address needs of the covered fish species over time."

- Criterion #10: Change wording to: "...relative degree to which each CSA could improve ecosystem processes to support the long term needs of each of the covered species and their habitats with minimal future input of resources."
- Criterion #11: Final wording of Covered Activities will inform Criterion #11; PRE's will complete and distribute the list no later than 5/4 Steering Committee meeting.
- Criterion #12:
 - Add "infrastructure and operations and management" after "relative costs," or change wording to reflect that costs include full lifecycle costs.
 - Delete "and benefits" from Rationale.
- Criterion #13: change wording to "relative degree of risks of CSA causing impacts to species and habitats outside of BDCP planning area."

Meeting Notes review

Meeting notes reviewed and accepted pending the following changes:

4/2 Page 2, bottom paragraph, first sentence will read: "Group agreed that a flexible management strategy would be preferable."

4/9 Page 2. Under Handout #1, second paragraph, second sentence. New wording will reflect workgroup's consensus decision to delete the rationale paragraph.

Science Workgroup

Next meeting will be held 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. tomorrow (4/17) in Resource Bldg, Room 1131. Agenda will include discussion of short list of facilitators, shortening list of lead scientists, and scopes of work for facilitator and lead scientist. The meeting time was shifted from 4/19 to enable interim science meeting with key Delta scientists to proceed.

Interim science meeting will be held Thursday 4/19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Moss Building (650 Capitol Mall). Phone call-in is (916) 657-4105. Meeting announcement with room # will be sent to CS Workgroup membership, with expectation that members will invite their technical and science associates and staff, as appropriate. The meeting will be informal and will enable members to obtain advice and feedback from scientists with extensive knowledge of Delta, including Denise Reed, Bill Bennett, Wim Kimerer. Members suggested including Michael Healy (who is unable to attend due to overseas travel this week) and Bob Twiss for this and future meetings.

Handouts #2-#4 (Pete Rawlings, SAIC)

Informational announcement only, no discussion on these today.

Handout #2 is updated draft conservation objectives reflecting changes suggested by Workgroup on 4/9. Handout #3 is Chuck Hanson's Powerpoint presentation from 4/9, as requested by members. Handout #4 is the Draft Conservation Themes and Stressors tables for green and white sturgeon. (also see Handouts).

At interim science meeting on 4/19, the draft conservation objectives will be presented without rationale statements.

Presentation of Split Delta proposal (Dale Myers)

Jones and Stokes (J&S), with whom PRE's are working, developed this proposal independently. PRE's are not endorsing this plan but want all CS Workgroup members to review and consider its contents; the proposal could form the basis of a new CSA or contain elements that should be considered. The proposed actions could be part of a dual conveyance or interim conservation strategy. J&S could do a presentation if Workgroup is interested.

Workgroup Schedule update

Today: Short-listing criteria

Friday: Steering Committee

4/23: Process and structure for short-listing criteria and in-depth review of draft CSA's.

4/31: Possible break while short-listing criteria analysis is in-process

5/7: Presentation and discussion of short-listing analysis

5/14: Review short-listing process and final short-list of CSA's

Public Comments

No public comments at this meeting.

Next Meeting

Monday 4/23, same time and location.